

CLAIMS

What is claimed:

- 5 1. An apparatus for separating particles from fluid, comprising:
- (a) a filter component having an upward facing side and a downward facing side; and
 - (b) at least two baffles attached to, or formed as part of, said downward facing side of said filter component for reducing the motion of said fluid around and through said
- 10 filter assembly.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a receptacle for containing said fluid.
3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said receptacle further includes a lid for covering said
- 15 receptacle.
4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said filter component further comprises an o-ring encircling the perimeter of said filter component for securing said filter assembly in said
- 20 receptacle.
5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said filter component further comprises at least one aperture passing through said filter component for providing a means by which a user of said system may easily remove said filter assembly from said receptacle.
- 25 6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said at least one aperture is defined by a band or ring of material separate from the material of said filter component or formed from the material of the filter component.
7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the upward facing side of said filter component further
- 30 comprises crossbars that are tapered to minimize the surface area of said filter component.
8. A system for separating particles from fluid, comprising:
- (a) a receptacle for containing said fluid; and
 - (b) a filter assembly, wherein said filter assembly further comprises:

(i) a filter component shaped to fit the shape of said receptacle, wherein said filter component comprises an upward facing side and a downward facing side;

(ii) an o-ring encircling the perimeter of said filter component for securing said filter assembly in said receptacle; and

(iii) at least two baffles attached to or formed as part of said downward facing side of said filter component for reducing the motion of said fluid around and through said filter assembly.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein said filter component further comprises at least one aperture passing through said filter component for providing a means by which a user of said system may easily remove said filter assembly from said receptacle.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said at least one aperture is defined by a band or ring of material separate from the material of said filter component or formed from the material of the filter component.

11. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said receptacle further includes a lid for covering said receptacle.

12. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the upward facing side of said filter component further comprises crossbars that are tapered to minimize the surface area of said filter component.

13. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said filter assembly and receptacle are fabricated as a single integrated unit.

14. A system for separating particles from fluid, comprising:

(a) a receptacle for containing said fluid;

(b) a lid for covering said receptacle; and

(c) a filter assembly, wherein said filter assembly further comprises:

(i) a filter component shaped to fit the shape of said receptacle, wherein said filter component comprises an upward facing side and a downward facing side, and wherein said upward facing side of said filter component further

comprises cross-bars that are tapered to minimize the surface area of said filter component ;

(ii) an o-ring encircling the perimeter of said filter component for securing said filter assembly in said receptacle; and

5 (iii) at least two baffles attached to said downward facing side of said filter component for reducing the motion of said fluid around and through said filter assembly.

10 15. The system of claim 14, wherein said filter component further comprises at least one aperture passing through said filter component for providing a means by which a user of said system may easily remove said filter assembly from said receptacle, and wherein said at least one aperture is defined by a band or ring of material separate from the material of said filter component or formed from the material of the filter component.

15 16. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said filter assembly and said receptacle are fabricated as an integrated unit for ensuring that said filter assembly fits securely in said receptacle.

20 17. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said filter assembly and said receptacle are fabricated as a single inseparable unit.

18. The system of claim 14, wherein the spaces between said cross-bars are shaped to form funnel-like structures for encouraging dirt and debris to pass through said filter component.

25 19. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the downward facing side of said filter component further comprises crossbars that include barbs or protrusions for reducing the backflow of fluid above said filter assembly.